

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 ACDA-05 SS-15 PM-03

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 L-02 DRC-01 /072 W

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P 201240Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 1583

INFO SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

JCS WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

CNO WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0853

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MARR, BA, US

SUBJECT : RETAINING MIDDLE EAST FORCE IN BAHRAIN:
PUBLICITY

REF : MANAMA 796

1. MOST RECENT EDITION LOCAL WEEKLY AL MAWAKEF (REFTEL)
CONTINUED COMMENT ON RETENTION MIDDLE EAST FORCE NOTING
THIS IS ONE OF KEY ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED EARLY IN NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY SESSION BEGINNING OCTOBER 23.

2. LOCAL REUTERS REP FOX CALLED OCTOBER 20 TO ASK WHAT
HE COULD FILE ON "ANNIVERSARY" OF DECISION TO GIVE MIDDLE
EAST FORCE ONE YEAR TO LEAVE BAHRAIN. HE NOTED GOB PRIME
MINISTER'S AUGUST INTERVIEW (MANAMA 606). I SAID THAT
BEYOND AFFIRMING USG HOPED MIDDLE EAST FORCE COULD CONTINUE
TO OPERATE FROM BAHRAIN, I COULD ONLY REFER HIM TO GOB
FOR FURTHER COMMENT. IN RESPONSE HIS QUESTIONS, I CON-
FIRMED THAT STATIONING AGREEMENT IS UNCLASSIFIED, PUB-
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LISHED DOCUMENT AND DESCRIBED ITS PROVISIONS BRIEFLY.

REFERRED HIM TO GOB FOR ANY QUESTIONS ON LEASE. FOX SAID GOB HAD PROMISED HIM "A FEW LINES" ON STATUS MIDDLE EAST FORCE.

3. OVER EID WEEKEND, WASHINGTON POST'S JIM HOAGLAND CALLED ON ME. IN COURSE GENERAL DISCUSSION BAHRAIN AND GULF AND IN RESPONSE HIS QUESTIONS I GAVE HIM ON BACKGROUND BASIS GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CONSIDERATIONS, REGIONAL, LOCAL AND BILATERAL, WHICH BEAR ON GOB'S WILLINGNESS TO DATE NOT TO ENFORCE DEADLINE FOR TERMINATIONS OF MIDDLE EAST FORCE STATIONING AGREEMENT.

4. COMMENT: FOR LAST WEEK CABINET MEMBERS, WHEN NOT TIED UP IN EID AL-FITR SOCIAL OBLIGATIONS, HAVE BEEN IN FREQUENT SESSIONS ON NUMBER OF URGENT QUESTIONS IN ANTICIPATION OPENING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. FOREIGN MINISTER SLIPPED OFFTHIS MORNING TO RABAT PRE-SUMMIT. SO FAR ALL INDICATIONS HERE ARE THAT GOB TAKING "ANNIVERSARY" OF MIDDLE EAST FORCE DECISION IN STRIDE, WITH NO INDICATION AT MOMENT OF ALARM ABOUT MEDIA COVERAGE.
TWINAM

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Message Attributes

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